

What is claimed is:

1. A laminated shingle for optically simulating a slate roof, comprising:
 an overlay member having a front surface, a rear surface, an upper
 portion and a lower portion, the lower portion including one or more tabs separated by
 5 cutouts, each tab including a layer of granules applied to the front surface with a
 preciseness such that the color blend for each tab is substantially uniform in color, and
 an underlay member having a front surface, the front surface being
 attached to the rear surface of the overlay member,

10 wherein at least one tab of the shingle has a different color blend from a tab of a
different shingle when laid on a roof with other substantially identically shaped
 shingles in overlapping longitudinal courses.

15 2. The laminated shingle according to Claim 1, wherein the underlay
 member includes a layer of relatively dark granules on the front surface forming a dark
 shading area, the cutouts of the overlay member exposing a portion of the front surface
 of the underlay member.

20 3. The laminated shingle according to Claim 1, wherein the overlay
 member also includes a layer of relatively dark granules on the front surface forming a
 dark shading area.

25 4. The laminated shingle according to Claim 3, wherein the layer of
 relatively dark granules is applied randomly to one of a lower edge and an upper edge
 of each tab of the overlay member.

5. The laminated shingle according to Claim 1, wherein each tab is
 generally rectangular in shape.

6. The laminated shingle according to Claim 1, wherein a lower edge of the overlay member is generally co-linear with a lower edge of the underlay member.

5 7. The laminated shingle according to Claim 6, wherein each cutout of the overlay member includes at least one beveled edge, and wherein the lower edge of the underlay member includes a corresponding beveled edge.

10 8. The laminated shingle according to Claim 1, wherein a width of at least one tab is different from a width of at least one other tab of the overlay member.

15 9. A laminated shingle for optically simulating a slate roof, comprising:
an overlay member having a front surface, a rear surface, an upper portion and a lower portion, the lower portion including one or more tabs separated by cutouts, each tab including a layer of granules on the front surface forming a generally uniform color blend, and

20 an underlay member having a front surface, the front surface being attached to the rear surface of the overlay member, the underlay member also including a layer of relatively dark granules on the front surface forming a dark shading area, the cutouts of the overlay member exposing a portion of the front surface of the underlay member,

wherein a boundary of the color blend for each tab is substantially horizontally aligned with each cutout separating the adjacent tabs.

25 10. The laminated shingle according to Claim 9, wherein at least one tab of the shingle has a different color blend from a tab of a different shingle when laid on a

roof with other substantially identically shaped shingles in overlapping longitudinal courses.

11. The laminated shingle according to Claim 9, wherein the overlay
5 member also includes a layer of relatively dark granules on the front surface forming a dark shading area.

12. The laminated shingle according to Claim 11, wherein the layer of
10 relatively dark granules is applied randomly to one of a lower edge and an upper edge of each tab of the overlay member.

13. The laminated shingle according to Claim 9, wherein each tab is
generally rectangular in shape.

14. The laminated shingle according to Claim 9, wherein each cutout of the
15 overlay member includes at least one beveled edge, and wherein the lower edge of the underlay member includes a corresponding beveled edge.

15. The laminated shingle according to Claim 9, wherein a width of at least
20 one tab is different from a width of at least one other tab of the overlay member.

16. The laminated shingle according to Claim 9, wherein a lower edge of the
overlay member is generally co-linear with a lower edge of the underlay member.

17. A roof covering including a plurality of successive generally horizontal
25 courses of laminated shingles, the shingles in each course being laid in a side-by-side

relationship and horizontally offset from the shingles in adjacent courses, each laminated shingle comprising:

an overlay member having front and rear surfaces, the overlay member including a headlap portion and a butt portion, the butt portion including a plurality of tabs separated by cutouts, each tab including a layer of granules on the front surface forming a generally uniform color blend; and

an underlay member having a front surface attached to the rear surface of the overlay member,

wherein at least one tab of at least one shingle has a different color blend from at least one other tab when laid on a roof with other substantially identically shaped shingles in overlapping longitudinal courses to optically simulate a slate roof.

18. The roof covering according to Claim 17, wherein the underlay member includes a layer of relatively dark granules on the front surface forming a dark shading area, the cutouts of the overlay member exposing a portion of the front surface of the underlay member.

19. The roof covering according to Claim 17, wherein the overlay member also includes a layer of relatively dark granules on the front surface forming a dark shading area.

20. The roof covering according to Claim 19, wherein the layer of relatively dark granules is applied randomly to one of a lower edge and an upper edge of each tab of the overlay member.

21. The roof covering according to Claim 17, wherein each tab is generally rectangular in shape.

22. The roof covering according to Claim 17, wherein a lower edge of the overlay member is generally co-linear with a lower edge of the underlay member.

5 23. The roof covering according to Claim 22, wherein each cutout of the overlay member includes at least one beveled edge, and wherein the lower edge of the underlay member includes a corresponding beveled edge.

10 24. The roof covering according to Claim 17, wherein a width of at least one tab is different from a width of at least one other tab of the overlay member.

15 25. The roof covering according to Claim 17, wherein approximately 60% of the plurality of tabs have a first background color comprising a light gray, approximately 25% of the plurality of tabs have a second background color, comprising dark gray, and about 15 percent of the tiles have a third color other than gray.

20 26. The roof covering according to Claim 25, wherein the third color comprises purple